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MOORE & VAN ALLEN, PLLC For IBM P.O. Box 13706 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709				FEARER, MARK D
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/710,913	MCMAHAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	MARK D. FEARER	2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,5-16,20,21 and 40-46 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-2, 5-16, 20-21, and 40-46 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 12 August 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

- Applicant's Amendment filed 31 December 2007 is acknowledged.
- Claims 1, 5, 13-14 and 16 have been amended.
- Claims 3-4, 17-19 and 22-39 are cancelled.
- Claims 40-46 are new.
- Claims 1-2, 5-16, 20-21 and 40-46 are pending in the present application.
- This action is made FINAL.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1, 5, 10, 16, 40 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) and in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1).

Consider claims 1, 5 as applied to claim 1, 10 as applied to claim 1, 16, 40 and 43 as applied to claim 40. Muller et al. discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level ("Referring to FIG. 1, a networked communication environment 10 includes users 14' and 14" (generally 14) communicating with each other over a network 18. Each user 14 accesses a local computer having a display screen and providing a user interface, including a user input device, through which the user 14 interacts with the local computer and other computers on the network 18. The network 18 can be implemented as a local area network (LAN), an intranet, the Internet or other form of network

providing near real time communications between users 14. A user 14 can interrupt one or more other users 14 by proposing a chat. Similarly, a user 14 can interrupt other users 14 by attempting to add the other users to an ongoing chat session. Hereafter the term "sender" designates a user 14' that generates the interruption. If no controls are implemented, a user 14" can experience an overwhelming volume of interruptions.

Consequently, the user 14" may not be able to respond to all of the interruptions.

Moreover, the user 14" may not be able to perform other work related tasks.")

paragraph 0018 ("In one embodiment, an urgency value associated with the interruption is received and compared with an interruption threshold value defined by the network user. The interruption is presented to the network user if the urgency value exceeds the threshold value. In another embodiment, a user status request is received from one of the senders. If at least one of the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the sender of the user status request, a customized status message is generated. If the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list do not include an entry associated with the sender of the user status request, a generic status message is generated.") paragraph 0006 ("Various levels of urgency can be associated with an interruption generated by a sender. For example, urgency values of "normal" and "moderate" can be assigned for chat requests of low priority and moderate importance, respectively. Urgency values defined as "urgent" can be reserved for the most critical chat requests. The urgency value is compared with the current value of an interruption threshold defined by the user. During times of heavy workload or imminent deadlines, the user may set the interruption

threshold value to urgent, causing any interruption request with lower urgency values to be deferred to another medium, such as e-mail. In contrast, under less critical working conditions, the user may set the interruption threshold value to moderate, allowing both urgent and moderate interruptions to occur. FIG. 3 summarizes the processing of interruption request for both listed and unlisted senders according to the user's reception lists for three urgency values.") paragraph 0025). However, Muller et al. fails to disclose a method of blocking interrupt requests. Kessen et al. discloses a method of blocking interrupt requests. Kessen et al. discloses a system and method for determining availability of participation in instant messaging wherein a user participating in a chat session can initiate a hold action which will have a 'do not disturb' status associated with that particular dialog window ("Additionally, moving a dialog window to a "hotspot" may create a temporary change in the user's status as well. This change may be applied to only the participant of the particular dialog window moved to the hotspot. For instance, when a dialog window is in a hotspot area, the user who initiated the "hold" action will have "do-not-disturb" status associated with that particular dialog window, while other incoming messages are not affected. When the dialog window is removed from the "hotspot" area or the user resumes the conversation with the blocked partner, the "hold" indication is cleared.") paragraph 0008). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a system and method for determining availability of participation in instant messaging wherein a user participating in a chat session can initiate a hold action which will have a 'do not disturb' status associated with that particular dialog window as taught

by Kessen et al. with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level as taught by Muller et al. for the purpose of managing interrupts in a chat session. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., fails to disclose a method of determining at least one of whether the interrupting contact has an interrupt priority ranking higher than, or at least as high as, an interrupt priority ranking of each of the at least two contacts participating in the ongoing instant messaging conversation and whether an interrupting conversation has a higher priority compared to the ongoing instant messaging conversation. Erb et al. discloses a method of call redirection zones for wireless communications wherein the interrupting contact has an interrupt priority ranking higher than, or at least as high as, an interrupt priority ranking of each of the at least two contacts participating in the ongoing instant messaging conversation and whether an interrupting conversation has a higher priority compared to the ongoing instant messaging conversation (paragraph 0026).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a method of call redirection zones for wireless communications wherein the interrupting contact has an interrupt priority ranking higher than, or at least as high as, an interrupt priority ranking of each of the at least two contacts participating in the ongoing instant messaging conversation and whether an interrupting conversation has a higher priority compared to the ongoing instant messaging conversation as taught by Erb et al. with a system and method for determining availability of participation in instant messaging wherein a user participating

in a chat session can initiate a hold action which will have a 'do not disturb' status associated with that particular dialog window and a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., for the purpose of managing interrupts in a chat session.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Kirkland et al. (US 20050149622 A1).

Consider claim 2 and as applied to claim 1. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a method wherein a user must exceed a threshold value to make an interrupt request ("The interruption is presented to the network user if the urgency value exceeds the threshold value.") Muller et al., paragraph 0006). However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a method wherein the content of the interrupting session comprises a priority ranking. Kirkland et al. discloses instant messaging priority filtering based on content and hierachal schemes wherein message content holds a priority level ("Messages related to mowing the lawn are configured to have a priority level below a delivery threshold. In other words, the user may configure the instant messaging client to delay delivery of messages having a priority level below a certain threshold. The client software may be configured to maintain a database of delayed messages. Alternatively, the delayed

messages may be appended to their appropriate queues, however, the user must manually view those queues or lower his or her priority threshold. Additionally, the message may be delivered, but display schemes such as using flashing messages to catch the user's attention may be delayed. Joe may configure these low priority messages to be delivered at a later time when Joe has lowered the delivery threshold. Thus, Joe is able to reorder incoming messages according to content priority, and allow/disallow interrupts along the lines of those priorities.”) paragraph 0052).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate instant messaging priority filtering based on content and hierachal schemes wherein message content holds a priority level as taught by Kirkland et al. with a method wherein a user must exceed a threshold value to make an interrupt request as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of managing interrupts.

Claims 6-7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Brewer et al. (US 5611040 A).

Consider claims 6 and 20, and as applied to claims 1 and 16, respectively. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window (“The present invention provides a

method, apparatus, and computer instructions for sending a user's availability information to an instant messaging partner. An automated response message is sent to the instant messaging partner in response to a user moving the user's instant messaging dialog window to a particular area of the user's display. The mechanism of the present invention allows the user to predefine areas of the user's display and to associate these predefined areas, or "hotspots" with user defined messages. If the user receives an instant message, but is not available to respond to the message, the user may move the instant messaging dialog window to a "hotspot" in the display. Depending upon the user-defined message associated with the "hotspot", the instant messaging application generates an automated response regarding the user's availability to respond to the message. The automated message is then sent to the instant messaging partner.") Kessen et al., paragraph 0007). However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a communication method comprising presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) representation of the interrupting conversation in a foreground of a display in response to interrupting the instant messaging conversation, and transferring a keyboard focus to a type-in box of the interrupting conversation in response to interrupting the instant messaging conversation. Brewer et al. discloses a system and method for activating double click applications with a single click comprising placing a window in the foreground and taking control of the mouse and keyboard ("Another instance where not having to click is a desirable goal is when, for example, as user desires to "drag and drop" an object into a window which currently is not under "focus". Focus is where a window is essentially placed in the foreground which, in a

multitasking environment, refers to the process (program) that has control of the console and responds to commands issued from the mouse or keyboard.") column 1 lines 56-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a system and method for activating double click applications with a single click comprising placing a window in the foreground and taking control of the mouse and keyboard as taught by Brewer et al. with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of single instance application.

Consider claim 7, and as applied to claim 1 above. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a communication method comprising presenting a graphical user interface (GUI) representation of the interrupting conversation to the background of a display in response to interrupting the instant messaging conversation. Brewer et al. discloses a system and method for activating double click applications with a single click comprising placing a window in the background ((“In the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, for the single click (i.e., button down then up) to be interpreted as a double click, the single click should occur within a preset double click time and range.

As mentioned in the BACKGROUND, this time and range have default settings but can also be updated by a user via a mouse control window as shown in FIG. 2.") column 3 lines 59-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a system and method for activating double click applications with a single click comprising placing a window in the background as taught by Brewer et al. with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of single instance application.

Claims 8 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Asokan (US 20050220079 A1).

Consider claims 8 and 21, and as applied to claims 1 and 16, respectively. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a messaging system comprising interrupts wherein other participants in a session are notified when someone else receives an interrupt request. Asokan discloses a system and method for

suspending packet-switched sessions to a wireless terminal comprising a method wherein participants in a session are notified when a terminal has become unavailable ((“In some embodiments of the present invention, the packet-switched session may be a push-to-talk session that has been initiated by a user of a GSM/GPRS wireless terminal and that was established by a push-to-talk server. In response to receiving a circuit-switched page, the wireless terminal via, for example, a push-to-talk application that is running on the terminal, notifies the push-to-talk server that the push-to-talk session is to be temporarily suspended. This notification may be forwarded, for example, as either a text message or an e-mail message that is transmitted over the SMS data bearer. The message may include, for example, an identifier associated with the cellular telephone (e.g., a push-to-talk client ID), identification of the reason the push-to-talk session is being suspended, the expected interval of the suspension, etc. If other participants in the push-to-talk session attempt to communicate with the wireless terminal over the push-to-talk session during the period when the wireless terminal has suspended the session, the push-to-talk server may notify those participants that the wireless terminal is temporarily unavailable. In other embodiments of the present invention, such notice may automatically be provided in response to the push-to-talk server receiving notification that a terminal has temporarily suspended participation in an on-going push-to-talk session. The notification to other participants in the push-to-talk session, if provided, may be generated and forwarded by the wireless terminal and/or the push-to-talk server.”) paragraph 0038).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a system and method for suspending packet-switched sessions to a wireless terminal comprising a method wherein participants in a session are notified when a terminal has become unavailable as taught by Asokan with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of event notification.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Balasuriya et al. (US 20050245240 A1).

Consider claim 9, and as applied to claim 1 above. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a system or method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein an interrupted instant messaging system resumes upon completion of the interrupt. Balasuriya et al. discloses an apparatus and method for storing media during interruption of a media session wherein a session can resume when an interruption ends ("The disclosure provides an apparatus for and method of storing subsequent streaming media in a memory associated with a wireless communication device in

response to receiving a communication request. For example, the disclosure provides for selectively storing at least one media of a multicast or unicast session in a local memory of a wireless communication device when a media streaming session is interrupted by an event, such as an incoming call. A user of the wireless communication device can resume playing the session from the local memory when the interruption ends.") paragraph 0013).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate an apparatus and method for storing media during interruption of a media session wherein a session can resume when an interruption ends as taught by Balasuriya et al. with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of seamless collaboration.

Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Horvitz et al. (US 2005084082 A1).

Consider claims 11 and 12, and as applied to claims 1 and 11, respectively. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window. However, Muller et al., as

modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a system or method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein interrupts can be selectively blocked or overridden. Horvitz et al. (US 2005084082 A1) discloses designs, interfaces, and policies for systems that enhance communication and minimize disruption by encoding preferences and situations wherein interruptability can be assigned and bypassed (read as overridden) ((“Interruptability can be assigned to the various created groups. For example, after defining and activating a groups and assessing the priorities of callers, users can optionally assess their background or default interruptability (e.g., for a typical week). Default interruptability can represent the cost of taking phone calls at different times of day and days of the week in situations where there is no further statement about context, for example. Users can assert their background cost of interruption via a time-pattern palette as illustrated in FIG. 8. This palette allows users to sweep out regions of low, medium, and high cost of interruption over a seven-day period. Users can also indicate which periods of time should be set to block calls. At these times, only users assigned breakthrough privileges can get through to the user. Users typically are instructed that they can bypass this palette, thus assuming a background low cost of interruption for substantially all times.”) paragraph 0077 (“It is to be appreciated that the respective interfaces described herein can be provided in various other settings and context. For example, the interfaces can be GUIs associated with various applications, including a mail application, a calendar application and/or a web browser, models (e.g., as discussed herein), and/or a desktop development tool. The GUIs can provide a display with one or more display objects, including aspects as configurable icons,

buttons, sliders, input boxes, selection options, menus, tabs and so forth with multiple configurable dimensions, shapes, colors, text, data and sounds to facilitate operations with the applications and/or models. In addition, the GUIs can include a plurality of other inputs and/or controls for adjusting and/or configuring one or more aspects of the present invention, as described in more detail below. As an example, the GUIs can provide for receiving user commands from a mouse, keyboard, speech input, web site, remote web service, pattern recognizer, face recognizer, and/or other device such as a camera or video input to effect or modify operations of the GUI.”) paragraph 0108).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate designs, interfaces, and policies for systems that enhance communication and minimize disruption by encoding preferences and situations wherein interruptability can be assigned and bypassed as taught by Horvitz et al. (US 2005084082 A1) with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of interactive collaboration.

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) and in further view of Savage et al. (US 20010009014 A1).

Consider claims 13-14, and as applied to claims 1 and 13, respectively. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., discloses a system and method for managing

interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window in an instant messaging contacts list in a user's communications device (Muller et al., paragraphs 0037-0039). However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., fails to disclose a system or method for managing interruptions to network users wherein interrupt ranking is assigned to all users or ranking is performed by a predetermined order. Savage et al. discloses facilitating real-time, multi-point communications over the internet wherein a scheduler keeps track of and maintains the priority of each participant in each conference ((“According to a specific embodiment, the scheduler keeps track of and maintains the priority of each participant in each conference. That is, the scheduler maintains the priority field in each atom for each participant. According to one embodiment, the priority field of a participant's atoms changes dynamically according to a fairness algorithm which monitors the amount of talking by a particular client. That is, the longer a client talks the lower its priority decays, while the less a client talks, the higher its priority remains. This gives high priority, for example to a client which interrupts another that has been talking for awhile. According to a more specific embodiment, hysteresis is also built into the system to allow a client to build its priority back.”) paragraph 0102).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate facilitating real-time, multi-point communications over the internet wherein a scheduler keeps track of and maintains the priority of each participant in each conference as taught by Savage et al. with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are

communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., for the purpose of availability rules.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Suorsa et al. (US 20020156831 A1).

Consider claim 15, and as applied to claim 1 above. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a system or method for managing interruptions to network users wherein Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) decides the priority of interrupt requests. Suorsa et al. discloses automated provisioning of computing networks using a network database data model wherein Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) verifies the access level of an agent ("Thus, the present invention provides a technique whereby the validity of a message or a command transmitted to an agent may be verified. This verification, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention may be accomplished using a lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP). Additionally, in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention, the access level of the agent may be verified by the system by way of a convenient communications protocol, such as LDAP or the like.") paragraph 0065).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate automated provisioning of computing networks using a network database data model wherein Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) verifies the access level of an agent as taught by with a system and method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session comprising a messaging dialog window as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of managing interrupts.

Claims 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) in further view of Vaara (US 6400951 B1) and in further view of Padawer et al. (US 20020052196 A1).

Consider claim 41, as applied to claim 40. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a method comprising dividing contact lists into a primary contacts list and a normal contacts list, wherein the primary contacts list permits a user to specify the interrupt priority ranking for selected contacts by listing contacts in an order according to their respective interrupt priority order. Vaara et al. discloses a handover and call setup in a mobile communication system wherein mobile cell lists are divided into a primary cell list and a normal cell list (column 5 lines 42-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a handover and call setup in a mobile communication system wherein mobile cell lists are divided into a primary cell list and a normal cell list as taught by Vaara et al. with a method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of merging requests. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., Erb et al. and Vaara et al., fails to disclose a method wherein the normal contacts lists contacts alphabetically. Padawer et al. discloses merging various request methods into a single unified user interface comprising an alphabetical contact list (paragraph 0043).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate merging various request methods into a single unified user interface comprising an alphabetical contact list as taught by Padawer et al. with a method of merging interrupt requests as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., Erb et al. and Vaara et al., for the purpose of user display navigation.

Consider claim 42, as applied to claim 41. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., Erb et al., Vaara et al. and Padawer et al. further discloses a method comprising blocking the contacts (Kessen et al., paragraph 0008) on the normal contacts list and that are not on the primary contacts list from interrupting the ongoing instant messaging conversation.

Claims 44 and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Horvitz et al. (US 20050132014 A1).

Consider claim 44, as applied to claim 40. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., discloses a method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a method comprising representing the contacts list as a graphical user interface including a table comprising one column for indicating an online status of each contact in the contacts lists and another column for an interrupt priority ranking of each contact. Horvitz et al. discloses statistical models and methods to support the personalization of applications and services via consideration of preference encodings of a community of users comprising online status of contacts and an interrupt priority ranking (paragraphs 0030-0031).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate statistical models and methods to support the personalization of applications and services via consideration of preference encodings of a community of users comprising online status of contacts and an interrupt priority ranking as taught by Horvitz et al. with a method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt

request is received with a user defined urgency level as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., for the purpose of user profiling.

Consider claim 46, as applied to claim 40. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., Erb et al. and Horvitz et al., further disclose a method comprising presenting a graphical user interface to each participant in an active instant messaging conversation, wherein the graphical user interface comprises an input means to enter or select a priority of the active instant messaging conversation (Horvitz et al., paragraph 0007).

Claim 45 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Muller et al. (US 20050132011 A1) in view of Kessen et al. (US 20060026254 A1) in further view of Erb et al. (US 20040142703 A1) and in further view of Horvitz et al. (US 20050132014 A1) and in further view of Dugad et al. (US 20040127226 A1).

Consider claim 45, as applied to claim 44. Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., Erb et al. and Horvitz et al., discloses a method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level. However, Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al. and Erb et al., fails to disclose a method comprising assigning a numerical value to each contact that specifies the interrupt priority ranking of each contact. Dugad et al. discloses a method to convey uplink traffic information comprising assigning a numerical value to each contact that specifies the interrupt priority ranking of each contact (Figure 23).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a method to convey uplink traffic

information comprising assigning a numerical value to each contact that specifies the interrupt priority ranking of each contact as taught by Dugad et al. with a method for managing interruptions to a network user wherein two users are communicating in a chat session, and an interrupt request is received with a user defined urgency level as taught by Muller et al., as modified by Kessen et al., Erb et al. and Horvitz et al., for the purpose of interrupt priority ranking.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 31 December 2007 with respect to claims 1, 2, 5-16 and 20-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any response to this Office Action should be faxed to (571) 273-8300 or mailed to:

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Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Mark Fearer whose telephone number is (571) 270-1770. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 7:30am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 571-272-4100.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/customer service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Mark Fearer
M.D.F./mdf
March 17, 2008

/Kenny S Lin/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2152